

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 180084
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S E C R E T STATE 180084

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BONN 13051 ACTION PRETORIA INFO SECSTATE
DATED JUL 17:

QTE: S E C R E T BONN 13051

EXDIS

FROM SECRETARY VANCE FOR AMBASSADOR

DEPARTMENT PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS:PORG PDEV WA SF

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER
VORSTER

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER
TO PRIME MINISTER VOORSTER DATED JULY 17 WHICH YOU
SHOULD DELIVER TO VORSTER AFTER CONCERTING WITH THE
LOCAL AMBASSADORS OF THE OTHER FOUR IN THE GROUP OF
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FIVE. IT IS IMPORTANT THE LETTER BE DELIVERED TODAY,
JULY 17, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

FIFTEEN MONTHS AGO OUR GOVERNMENTS UNDERTOOK AN
UN PRECEDENTED INITIATIVE -- A COLLECTIVE DIPLOMATIC

EFFORT BY THE FIVE WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO FIND A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM OF NAMIBIA. WE RECOGNIZED THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED BUT ACCEPTED THEM BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO FIND AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE VIOLENCE AND INSTABILITY WHICH SEEMED INEVITABLE IN THAT CRITICAL PART OF AFRICA.

NOW AFTER FIFTEEN MONTHS WE ARE ON THE VERGE OF A BREAKTHROUGH WHICH COULD CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE HAVE ARRIVED AT A FINAL PROPOSAL WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED ON APRIL 25 AND WHICH SWAPO ACCEPTED WITHOUT CHANGE ON JULY 12. THE FRONT-LINE STATES HAVE ENDORSED THE PROPOSAL, AS HAVE A BROAD SPECTRUM OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN NAMIBIA. THE PROPOSAL ALSO ENJOYS WIDE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND WE STAND READY TO MOVE PROMPTLY INTO THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

WHEN SOUTH AFRICA FIRST ANNOUNCED THAT IT ACCEPTED THE PROPOSAL, OUR GOVERNMENTS IMMEDIATELY HAILED YOUR DECISION AS AN ACT OF STATESMANSHIP. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WE COULD NEVER HAVE ARRIVED AT THE POINT WE HAVE WITHOUT A WILLINGNESS ON YOUR PART TO PERSEVERE, AND TO TAKE A BROAD VIEW OF THE VARIOUS ISSUES IN THE INTERESTS OF ARRIVING AT AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT.

IT BECAME APPARENT AT AN EARLY STAGE THAT THERE WAS ONE ISSUE WHICH COULD NOT BE ADDRESSED AS PART OF
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THE PROPOSAL, WALVIS BAY. THE POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES WERE SO DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED THAT OUR GOVERNMENTS REPEATEDLY TOOK THE VIEW THAT IT COULD NOT BE INCLUDED AS PART OF THE PROPOSAL. PROGRESS ON THE PROPOSAL WAS ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF A GENERAL WILLINGNESS TO PERMIT THIS ISSUE TO BE ADDRESSED AFTER INDEPENDENCE. AS YOU WILL RECALL, WE STATED BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY TO YOU THAT, AS CANADIAN FOREIGN MINISTER JAMIESON SAID BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON APRIL 25: "WE CONSIDER THAT ALL ASPECTS OF THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY MUST BE SUBJECT TO DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF NAMIBIA."

OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN THIS VIEW AND HAVE RESISTED ALL PRESSURES TO INCLUDE THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY AS PART OF THE PROPOSAL. AT THE SAME TIME, THE IMPORTANCE OF WALVIS BAY TO THE FUTURE OF NAMIBIA IS INESCAPABLE, A POINT WHICH SOUTH AFRICA HAS ALSO IMPLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGED THROUGH THE WILLINGNESS IT HAS EXPRESSED TO US TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT OF NAMIBIA ON THIS ISSUE. ALTHOUGH WALVIS BAY WAS NOT PART OF OUR PROPOSAL,

WE WELCOMED THIS WILLINGNESS BECAUSE WALVIS BAY IS CRITICAL TO THE FUTURE OF NAMIBIA ECONOMICALLY, IS LINKED TO IT GEOGRAPHICALLY AND ETHNICALLY, AND IS REGARDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS ESSENTIAL TO THE VIABILITY OF NAMIBIA. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT WALVIS BAY CANNOT BE PART OF THE PROPOSAL BUT THAT ALL ASPECTS OF THE QUESTION MUST BE THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF NAMIBIA. THIS IS THE POSITION WE HAVE TAKEN, AND IT IS THE POSITION WE SHALL CONTINUE TO TAKE IN THE FUTURE.

WE STAND BY THE PROPOSAL WE HAVE PLACED BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND WE PLEDGE OUR SUPPORT TO THE FAITHFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS PROVISIONS.

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MR. PRIME MINISTER, WE HAVE COME TO THE POINT WHERE AN HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY NOW RESTS WITH YOU TO CREATE CONDITIONS WHICH CAN LEAD NOT ONLY TO PEACE AND PROSPERITY IN NAMIBIA BUT ALSO TO A NEW AND IMPROVED POLITICAL CLIMATE IN THE WHOLE REGION. WE KNOW THAT THE PATH OF VIOLENCE PROMISES THE OPPOSITE. AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT OF THIS LONG-STANDING ISSUE IS NOW WITHIN OUR GRASP. WE THEREFORE URGE YOU PERSONALLY TO CONTINUE TO HELP ATTAIN THIS GREAT PRIZE.

MAY I ALSO SAY THAT I AM PLEASED WITH THE REPORT FROM AMBASSADOR SMITH CONCERNING HIS DISCUSSIONS DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO YOUR COUNTRY.

SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER

HIS EXCELLENCY BALTHAZAR JOHNNES VORSTER, PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, UNION BUILDING, PRETORIA. END TEXT.

3. SIGNED ORIGINAL OF LETTER BEING AIR POUCHED.
STOESSEL UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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